LOCAL NEWS

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Navy Aircraft Make Trials

'Turkeys' to Buzz City

Victoria is going to get pretty thoroughly "buzzed" by "Turkeys" for 12 days starting today.

For five hours every day, 2½ in the morning and the same in the afternoon, an Avenger aircraft from VU 33 Squadron, Patricia Bay, will be making passes over the city at altitudes as low at 1,000 feet.

The flights are being conducted during exhaustive tracking and fire control equipment trials aboard the new navy destroyer escort Terra Nova, built at VMD shipyards, Dallas Road.

RCN spokesmen said one plane would be up at a time, but many runs over the ship would be made during the extensive trials.

The Avenger aircraft, a conventional single-engined Second World War craft, are called "Turkeys" by airmen.

The navy said the Turkeys would be flying low over the city at comparatively slow speeds starting at 9 a.m. and again at 1.15 p.m., each day of the trials.

The Terra Nova is not due for commissioning for several months, spokesmen said.

Mystery Illness

You-Name-It, You-Have-It

Many Students Out of School

A you-name-it, you-can-have-it illness has contributed to a sharp increase in the number of absentees from Greater Victoria schools this week.

Dr. Elizabeth Mahaffy, Victoria-Esquimalt medical health officer, said yesterday she didn't know whether to call it a 'flu-like cold or a cold-like 'flu, but that most people suffering from it had sore throats.

As an example of the sharp increase in absentees, Dr. Mahaffy said 90 students were absent from S. J. Willis Junior High School Monday and 123 yesterday, compared with about 30 normally.

NOT YET DETERMINED

But, she said, it had not yet been determined how much of the absenteeism was attributable to the 'flu-like illness and how much to snow and its after-effects.

Elsewhere on the health front, Dr. Mahaffy reported communicable diseases at normal or below-normal levels with the exception of chickenpox. Chickenpox, she said, seemed to be following its usual pattern of climbing to a peak every second spring.

SEVEN CASES

Last week there were seven cases in Victoria-Esquimalt district and 38 in Saanich district.

Dowell:

'CPR Skims Cream'

Accusing the CPR of "wanting all the cream and none of the milk," Acting Mayor Arthur Dowell yesterday called for a meeting of the Greater Victoria intermunicipal committee to look for a way of saving the city's winter ferry service.

A meeting has been tentatively scheduled for today.

The acting mayor said he supported suggestions made in debate in the legislature that the federal or provincial government should take over the entire Canadian Pacific ferry service on this coast, using the profitable runs to offset the losing ones.

He was critical of the attitude of the federal government and particularly of the seeming lack of action by Defence Minister George Pearkes and A. DeB. McPhillips, Victoria's member of Parliament.

"My reaction to Ottawa's attitude is this," he said, "that to me it is unbelievable the utter disregard they have on this matter."

"I'm also surprised — I saw Mr. Winch said something — that there apparently were no remarks at all by our minister or our member I should think at least they'd say something," he said.

PAULINE BEATTIE

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Seen In Passing

Pauline Beattie working in an office at Royal Jubilee Hospital. (She is a medical stenographer at the hospital and lives with her parents, **Dr. and Mrs. A. N. Beattie** at 1745 St. Ann, with her two sisters, **Barbara**, 17, and **Marjorie**, 14. In her spare time Pauline likes to go skating and dancing and she is taking golfing lessons) . . . **Mrs. Dolly Webb** visiting friends in Victoria . . . **Jill Robertson** busy looking for velvet drapes for the Victoria College play "Ah, Wilderness" and asking possible donors to phone the college number . . . **Jane Hall** terming the Conservative executive actions "shocking" . . . **Clarence Goode** estimating the length of memories of older Conservatives.

Hilarious heat in five-event pancake racing championships at Ganges Shrove Tuesday celebrations ended disastrously for Mrs. Lou Buskira, at finish line, when she flipped herself instead of the pancake and failed to finish on her feet. Mrs. Nony Humphries, left, won the heat when she negotiated 50-yard course at a fast clip while furiously flipping pancake in skillet. Program is one of three of the kind in world.

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Beating a blinding snowstorm, balancing a flipping pancake and running 50 yards at full speed is no easy stunt, even for Mrs. Kay Booth, a second year "expert" in the annual Ganges Shrove Tuesday pancake race.

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Flapjack Flippers Race in Snowstorm

Salt Spring Islanders Maintain Old Custom

GANGES—Five Salt Spring Island hotcake flippers floundered to the fore in the annual Canadian championship "pancake races" marking Shrove Tuesday here.

A great-grandmother and a couple of teen-agers were among the winners in five heats as more than 45 contestants covered a 50-yard course while flipping a pancake in a pan.

To complicate an already "hazardous" event the races were run off in a heavy snow storm.

The pancake race is an old English custom that originated hundreds of years ago to make a final day of merriment before the dawn of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Pancake races were run only in Olney, England, and Liberal, Kan., until last year when they were introduced to Salt Spring Island as a centennial project by Mrs. Anne Williams of Ganges.

SO MUCH FUN

The event proved so much fun that it was repeated again yesterday and will be held here annually.

The races in Olney and Liberal are run over a "regulation" course of 415 yards. The Salt Spring Island racers take it easy and only run 50 yards.

But things will be changed in future.

WHOLE DISTANCE

"The custom has been forgotten by the modern world," she said. "But pancake races are lots of fun and less gruesome than some old customs."

Salt Spring Islanders apparently agree with her and turned out 300-strong to witness the big race.

Winners, who received packages of pancake flour, were Mrs. A. B. Elliot, an energetic great-grandmother of 69; W. H. Bradley, winner of the men's heat; Nony Humphreys, women's class; Lyn Akerman, 14, teen-age class; and Paddy Wickens, youngsters' group.

BUSSED BY RECTOR

Race winners in days of old were bussed by the rector of the town.

Even this tradition was partially revived yesterday when Archdeacon G. H. Holmes, rector of St. George's Church bestowed a fatherly kiss on the fair cheek of Jennifer Graham, one of the young contestants.

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Pretty Jennifer Graham, 17, receives kiss from Ven. G. H. Holmes of St. George's Church. Kisses are usually reserved for winners in English races. Ganges winners were awarded pancake flour.

Few Snow Flurries Today's Prediction

More clouds and cool temperatures were forecast for Greater Victoria today by weatherman William Mackie.

There might be a few snow flurries, he said, but a heavy snowfall is not expected.

Temperatures were expected to drop to the freezing point overnight and rise to about 37 degrees today.

Student Concerts On Next Month

Nearly 6,000 Greater Victoria junior high school students are going to get a dose of musical culture next month —courtesy of the Victoria Symphony Society.

Concerts for Grade 7 and 8 youngsters will be held at the 1,400-seat Royal Theatre the mornings of March 2 and 23, it was decided at a society meeting last night.

There will be two one-hour concerts on each of the mornings—at 9.30 for Grade 7 and 11 a.m. for Grade 8.

Board members expressed regret that lack of seating prevented the inclusion of more students at the concerts, which are likely to become annual affairs.

"This just shows how much we need an auditorium in this area," said society member Cliff Rutledge.

"Then all the Greater Victoria students could attend, plus those from Sooke and other outlying districts."

Cost of the student concerts, including the buses, will come out of the Canada Council grant, the meeting was told.

More Budget-Stretching Tips

'Pensioner' Guest On Pancake Day

By TED SHACKLEFORD

For the first time I can remember, I had pancakes on Pancake Day, yesterday — as the guest of an 82-year-old pensioner in her small home in Victoria West.

And I gained a number of good tips to help me spin out my remaining money until the end of the month. Tips like putting a tiny pinch of bicarbonate of soda in a pot of tea to make it draw better.

Like adding half a cup of water to every quart of liquid milk, cooking rice and serving it with golden syrup as a sweet, and frying bread in margarine to make croutons so that soup is more filling.

WORTH TRIP

Mrs. Ethel Musgreave invited me to have pancakes with her shortly after I began this assignment. And the pancakes were well worth the trip.

After the meal we sat in her living room for a while and chatted. Mrs. Musgreave keeps too busy to get very lonely in her small home.

She does her own baking—even let me buy a loaf of her home-made bread—and keeps the house spotlessly clean. What with trips to the store and spending time with friends, Mrs. Musgreave has a busy time.

Mornings are spent listening to radio quiz programs in the hope that she will be phoned. So far she has missed out, but she still listens closely.

And in any spare moments, Mrs. Musgreave likes to play a small organ—mainly hymns.

And with her own reduced circumstances, Mrs. Musgreave still has time to feel sorry for pensioners with less than she has.

FINANCES REDUCED

Yesterday I reduced my finances by a further $2.40, leaving me $18.08 to carry me through to the end of the month, buying food, paying for the gas I am using in heating the room and in cooking, and saving something to cover laundry, dry cleaning and other expenses.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

My bus trip to Mrs. Musgreave's cost 26 cents; I splurged and bought a six-ounce jar of instant coffee as a change from my regular two cups of tea ($1.37), some ends of bacon (15 cents), a tin of spinach (17 cents), a tin of sauerkraut (18 cents), four wieners (15 cents) and the loaf of bread (12 cents).

WIENERS, COFFEE

Breakfast yesterday was two bowls of shredded wheat and two cups of tea, lunch was soup and pancakes at Mrs. Musgreave's home, and dinner was soup, wieners and sauerkraut with coffee.

A number of Greater Victoria residents have sent in cheap, easy-to-prepare meal recipes which can be cooked on a hotplate. They will be published on the Colonist social page tomorrow.

And still more invitations for meals, offers of light work and offers of transport are needed for pensioners. Anyone who can help should telephone Mrs. Ethel Bevan at the Silver Threads Service, EV 2-5121, during the day.

Health Body Recommends Meat Bylaw

Passage of a bylaw barring the sale of uninspected meat in Victoria was recommended to city council yesterday by the Victoria-Esquimalt board of health.

Esquimalt already has such a bylaw.

According to a survey, 10 per cent of meat sold in Victoria comes from sources which are not under inspection, a board report said.

'You Wouldn't Dare'

House Jokers On the Carpet

The deep crimson color of the legislature's rug got into the debate Tuesday.

Attorney-General Bonner said scientists had found red quickened muscular reaction, excited the emotions, produced a feeling of restlessness and made time pass more slowly.

Perhaps, he suggested, this might account for some of the antics of the CCF opposition.

Mr. Speaker Shantz interjected jocularly that he hadn't chosen the color.

And when one member asked the government: "Will you accept a motion to sell?" CCF leader Strachan shot out:

"You wouldn't dare lift this rug; too much dirt has been swept under it."

Replied Attorney-General Bonner: "The honorable, the leader of the opposition knows his side of the rug better than I do."

Manning to Show Tour Film at Sooke

John Manning of Victoria, youthful world traveller, will show films of his travels in Sooke Community Hall, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. Proceeds will augment the new Sooke ambulance fund.

The program is under Sooke and North Sooke Women's Institute auspices.

Assessment Case

Court Rules Out B.C. Intervention

The provincial attorney-general's department sought unsuccessfully to intervene yesterday in the hearing of the Saanich plea for reduction of the municipality's residential assessment total in School District 61.

Court of revision hearing the case found itself competent to do so last Thursday after long debate on its powers.

Alan B. MacFarlane, representing the attorney-general's department, sought yesterday to challenge the court's jurisdiction, claiming it had heard argument on one side only.

But the court ruled it had come to its decision and would not reconsider it.

The hearing was adjourned until Feb. 25, when Saanich is scheduled to call witnesses to try to prove that assessment levels are lower in the other parts of the school district and that, to avoid placing an unfair share of school costs on the Saanich ratepayers, the Saanich assessment total in the district should be reduced nearly 30 per cent.

The municipality is expected to make a similar plea Thursday before the court of revision for the Greater Victoria school district.